

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - June 16, 2008

San Diego, CA - United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Pedro Cruz-Tercero was sentenced today in United States District Court in San Diego by the Honorable William Q. Hayes to serve 80 months in custody based upon his conviction for being a deported alien found in the United States. Cruz-Tercero was convicted after a bench trial on March 18, 2008, before Judge Hayes. In imposing the sentence, Judge Hayes found that Cruz-Tercero's 2000 conviction for assault with a semi-automatic firearm constituted an "aggravated felony" and justified a significant increase to his sentence.

According to court records, Cruz-Tercero was arrested on October 17, 2007 by agents from the United States Border Patrol. The agents observed Cruz-Tercero attempt to elude them by driving at a higher rate of speed after he saw the marked service vehicle and then later exiting the vehicle and hiding in the brush.

The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 07CR3021-W

Pedro Cruz-Tercero

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326(a) and (b) (Deported alien found in the United States)

AGENCY

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement